

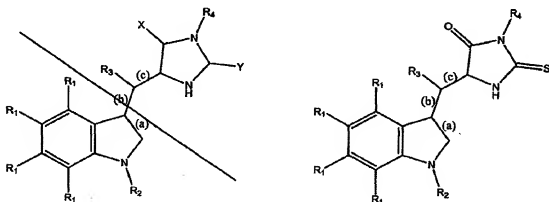
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AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 1-2: (Cancelled).

Claims 3-8: (Withdrawn)

9. (Currently amended) A method for decreasing necrosis, said method comprising treating a cell with a chemical compound, said compound of the formula:



wherein

each R<sub>1</sub> is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, carboxy, hydroxyl, methoxyl, amino, and nitro;

R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and acyl;

R<sub>3</sub> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, acyl, halogen, hydrogen, and hydroxyl;

R<sub>4</sub> is selected from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxyl, carboxyl, and linear and branching alkyl groups; and

X is selected from the group consisting of =O, -OH and -H;

Y is selected from the group consisting of -S and -SR<sub>5</sub>; and

each of the bonds (a), (b), and (c) independently is either a double or single bond,